

Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency
Fiscal Note

SF 2363 - Water Quality Standards (LSB 5158 SV)

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Fiscal Note Version - New

Description

Senate File 2363 addresses the State's water quality standards. The Bill:

1. Specifies that State water must meet one of the three outlined criteria to become a designated stream segment.
2. Specifies that remaining State water will be designated as general stream segments.
3. Requires the Environmental Protection Commission to adopt administrative rules to define designated uses of stream segments and then adopt water quality standards for each designated use. A Water Quality Standards Advisory Committee will provide scientific information to the Commission during the rules development process.
4. Requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to conduct a use attainability analysis prior to changing a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit use designation.
5. Specifies the DNR will consider social and economic impacts to a community resulting from the assignment of a use designation. The Environmental Protection Commission will adopt administrative rules for the DNR to use to assist in making that determination.
6. Allows a regulated entity to use approved alternative technologies to meet water quality standards.
7. Specifies the DNR will publish a list of all designated stream segments by December 31, 2006, and whether a use-attainability analysis has been completed.
8. Requires the DNR to complete a use-attainability analysis for all newly designated stream segments by December 31, 2007.
9. Establishes a Watershed Quality Planning Task Force and specifies the membership. Requires the Task Force to submit a report to the General Assembly complete with recommendations by June 30, 2008.
10. Establishes a Wastewater Treatment Financial Assistance Program in the Iowa Finance Authority to provide low-interest loans, no-interest loans, or grants to cities and towns for wastewater treatment facilities.

Assumptions

1. The DNR estimates the cost to complete the stream assessments would be \$400,000 for FY 2007 and \$350,000 for FY 2008.
2. The DNR estimates the cost of the Watershed Quality Planning Task Force to be minimal.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated fiscal impact of SF 2363 is an increase in expenditures of \$400,000 in FY 2007 and \$350,000 in FY 2008 to the DNR. The Bill does not specify a funding source for these expenditures.

Source

Department of Natural Resources

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 16, 2006

The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency to members of the Legislature upon request.
